

## Montgomery Philharmonic 2014 - 2015 Concert Season – SINGULARITY

### Ludwig van Beethoven – He Changed the World – October 12, 2014

#### About Ludwig van Beethoven –

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, Beethoven remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. He began his professional study as a pianist in 1779 in Bonn with Christian Gottlob Neefe, a court-appointed organist who also taught him composition. Beethoven's first job was working as Neefe's assistant, and during this time, his first works were published—a set of piano variations and three sonatas. Soon afterward, Beethoven moved to Vienna, intending to study with Haydn. It is not clear how long he actually studied with Neefe, but he did study counterpoint with Haydn. At the same time, Beethoven established himself as a piano virtuoso and violinist.

In the early 1800's, Beethoven began to write symphonies, chamber music, and piano sonatas, and he also accepted piano students. The first signs of tinnitus began to appear at this time, and by 1811 he was having great difficulty playing his own work, the *Emperor Concerto*; by 1814 he was completely deaf. Beethoven's deafness has been attributed to lead poisoning. He kept his wine in a ceramic container that had a lead-based glaze, and a recent analysis of a few strands of his hair found that it had abnormally high levels of lead. Beethoven's last period of composition began in 1815. At this point, he became an innovator in various forms of composition and his music had a striking intellectual depth and intensity of expression.

- **Born:** December 16, 1770, in Bonn, Germany
- **Died:** March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria
- **Full Name:** Ludwig van Beethoven
- **Compositions:** 9 symphonies, 7 concerti, 1 opera, 1 ballet, numerous works for piano including 32 piano sonatas, 16 string quartets, and dozens of other chamber music works
- **Parents:** Maria Magdalena Keverich, Johann van Beethoven
- **Siblings:** Kaspar Anton Karl van Beethoven, Nikolaus Johann van Beethoven, Ludwig Maria van Beethoven

Ovt, Creatures of Prometheus, opus 43

Two Marches for Military Band, WoO 18 & 19

March for Military Band, WoO 24

Symphony No. 2

#### *March for Military Band, WoO 24 (1816)*

Beethoven wrote the *March for Military Band*, WoO24, at the request of Lieutenant Commander Franz Xaver Embel. This march, nicknamed the “Turkish” march, would be his last march for military band. Although there are sketches of themes used in this march that date back to 1915, Beethoven actually composed the march in the spring of 1816. At the time of the commission, Beethoven was already working on a piano sonata, but he chose to interrupt working on that in favor of the march commission.

**Instrumentation** – 2 flutes (doubling piccolo), 2 oboes, clarinet in Eb, 2 clarinets in C, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns in C and Bb, 2 trumpets in D/G/B/G, 3 trombones, triangle, cymbals, snare drum, bass drum

#### Artifact –

Full score of Military March WoO24



1. Karajan 1960s, Vol. 4 - Herbert von Karajan

[1. Marches and Military Music – Bergwitz-Goffeng, H. - Frederick Ii - Weber, C.M. Von - Beethoven, L. Van - Spontini, G. - Riotte, P.J. - Caspar Richter, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, members, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin & Berlin Polizei Orchester](#)

3. Beethoven: Egmont Incidental Music; Wellington's Victory; Military Marches - Berlin Philharmonic Wind Ensemble, Berlin Philharmonic & Herbert von Karajan



1. Beethoven: Egmont (Complete Incidental Music) / Wellington's Victory / Military Marches

2. Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph

3. Conversations with Beethoven (NYRB Classics)

#### YouTube Video Links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEMRbABLMQo>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaY\\_uUjXH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaY_uUjXH0)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj\\_L80vR41M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj_L80vR41M)